



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PHILIPPINES

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

2008



USAID programs help coastal communities reduce destructive fishing practices and sustainably increase their fish catch.

(Photo: USAID/Philippines)

PHILIPPINES SNAPSHOT

Date of independence: 1946

Population: 88.6 million
(2007 census)

Annual income per person: \$1,170

Source: World Bank Development Indicators 2006

USAID IN THE PHILIPPINES

<http://philippines.usaid.gov>

OVERVIEW

The Philippines' heavy reliance on foreign sources of energy in the power and transport sectors raises energy costs and results in an unfavorable investment climate compared to other countries in the region. The traditional source of fuel for transport (gasoline?) also contributes to worsening air quality in the major urban centers of the country. Nearly half of Manila's 13 million residents are without clean, safe drinking water. Illegal and destructive fishing practices threaten food security and the productivity of natural resources, which are plentiful in the Philippines. The Philippines also has the highest rate of deforestation in Southeast Asia.

USAID assists the Philippines to address four key challenges in the energy and environment sectors: competitiveness, corruption, conflict and conservation. Special attention is given to Mindanao in the southern Philippines, which has an extraordinary natural resource base that could make even greater contributions to national food security were it not for continuing violent conflict and failures of governance hindering sustainable development.

PROGRAMS

ENERGY SECTOR PERFORMANCE

USAID supports the efforts of the Philippine Department of Energy to pursue energy independence, rural electrification, and implementation of power sector reforms. USAID promotes indigenous and clean fuels through the development of the country's extensive natural gas reserves and greater reliance upon wind, solar, hydro and other renewable energy sources. Through a private-public alliance, USAID is providing renewable energy-powered electricity to thousands of households in remote, conflict-affected areas in Mindanao. USAID also provides technical assistance to the Department of Energy and the Energy Regulatory Commission to implement reforms to encourage investments and protect consumers.

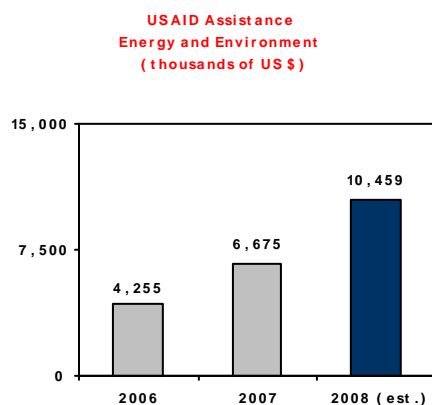


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USAID partners with rural communities to improve the management of natural resources.
(Photo: USAID/Philippines)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

In partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture, USAID assists local governments and communities to improve governance of natural resources through greater transparency and accountability, and local stakeholder participation. USAID programs seek reductions in over-fishing and other destructive fishing practices – such as the use of dynamite, cyanide, fine mesh nets – to help communities sustainably increase their fish catch for local consumption and trade. USAID also works to raise public awareness and support dialogues within communities to resolve legal disputes concerning the use, access and management of their natural resources.

In the southern Philippines, USAID efforts are devoted to improving local management of forests, fisheries and coastal resources, and solid waste, and introducing renewable energy-powered electricity in communities of former rebel combatants. Communities in remote and conflict-affected areas are benefiting from the processing, packaging and marketing of their agricultural products by using equipment powered by renewable energy such as fish and seaweed driers, corn and rice mills, electric drills and cellular telephones.

URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

USAID works with a range of stakeholders to improve urban environmental management, implement activities to reduce vehicle emissions; increase private investment in water supply and sanitation; and promote integrated solid waste management. USAID is supporting local governments and communities to assess, plan, procure, dispose and manage solid waste. A number of USAID-supported recycling and composting efforts are generating income while reducing health hazards and environmental risks.